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SENATOR HARTNETT: Ah, Article III of Section 19 of the Constitution, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: You know, I was reading the committee statement this morning, and then I kind of looked at Section 19, Article III, Section 19, and it seems there's a clear exception in that provision when it says, "the compensation of any public officer", et cetera, "shall not be increased except members elected or appointed to the Legislature or the judiciary, or officers elected or appointed to a board having more than one member". So, it seems to me that there's a clear exception in Section 19 that would allow for this kind of thing that you're talking about. I guess, my point is that I don't think it should be the policy of this state to deny anyone access to insurance benefits. There's nothing in this bill that says that the board must provide these benefits to the board members, it just simply offers the board the option to allow the board members to participate in this plan. These are elected officials. I would assume that if they did this and it was contrary to public opinion, then they would be voted out of office. There is accountability here. My thought is that we should allow the raise, because it's not a mandatory raise either. The board has to vote on this. So, personally, I'm going to support the bill, which gives them the flexibility to award additional income. I'm not going to support the committee amendments because I think it should be the policy of this state to allow everybody to have access to insurance. We shouldn't deny that to anyone. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: You want me to answer (laugh)?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Bourne, they do have the right to take insur...they do right now, the members do.

SENATOR BOURNE: Right.

SENATOR HARTNETT: It's...it's...it's within the compensation cap.